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Listing of Claims:

1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (previously amended) A device for accelerating a projectile consisting of:  
a projectile; and

a carrier for carrying the projectile; and

an acceleration means to move the projectile and its carrier effectively together; and

an effectively anchored apparatus to encounter the moving projectile carrier with said  
apparatus having an unblocked path to allow the largely unrestrained projectile to  
continue in its path past said apparatus; and

a hydraulic means for receiving, as the carrier impacts the anchored apparatus, the energy  
of that impact and transmitting that energy through the hydraulic means to the rear of the  
projectile; whereby

the already moving projectile is further accelerated.

12. (currently amended) The device of claim 11 wherein:

~~The leveraging means is hydraulic~~ The hydraulic means has ~~having~~ a movable diaphragm  
~~or piston~~ which impacts the anchored apparatus thus transmitting the energy as  
compression within a nearby chamber whose outlet impacts the rear of the projectile.

13. (previously amended) The device of claim 11 wherein:

the content of the hydraulic means is an explosive whose ignition is the result of the  
impact; whereby additional propulsion is achieved.

14. (currently amended) The device of claim 11 further comprising:

a sealed area in advance of the projectile's path for containing a vacuum; and

~~vacuum creation means, operatively connected to and powered by~~ ~~powered by the same sudden or explosive acceleration means, for creating a vacuum in the sealed area that initially propels the projectile and carrier, with a resulting pressure occurring in a first chamber equipped with a first sealed plunger or diaphragm which moves in response to the expansion and which is operatively connected to a second sealed plunger or diaphragm in a second chamber such that, as the second plunger or diaphragm moves through the second chamber, a vacuum is drawn in the second chamber; and~~

~~a sealed cover for the aforementioned sealed second chamber which is either penetrable, breakable or removable for the advancing projectile such that the vacuum created in the area in advance of the projectile is allowed to accumulate until it is time for the projectile to exit; whereby~~

air resistance is reduced in advance of the projectile facilitating less restrained acceleration prior to the projectile's exit from the sealed chamber.

15. (previously presented) A method for accelerating a projectile comprising the steps of:

- (a) accelerating a projectile and carrier together,
- (b) slowing or stopping the carrier by an encounter with a restrictive contact element located essentially in the path of the oncoming carrier,
- (c) conducting the carrier's kinetic energy from the restrictive contact element through a leveraging device,
- (d) pushing the back or trailing end of the projectile from the faster moving portion of the leveraging device, and
- (e) adding more velocity to the already moving projectile.

16. (currently amended) the device of claim 12 wherein:

a ~~the~~ medium inside the compression chamber is an explosive and is ignited as the projectile ~~reaches~~ reaches the muzzle; whereby additional propulsion is achieved.